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## INSIDE:

Gaddis' dream at  
April Hill Park is  
getting closer  
to reality  
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Volume No. 22, Issue No. 8

www.swportlandpost.com

Portland, Oregon

Complimentary

June 2014

## Work continues on retaining walls, trolley corridor north of the bridge

### SELLWOOD BRIDGE

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Lying next to the Columbia River, two large spans are being readied for their trip down the Willamette to the Sellwood Bridge work zone.

Built at Thompson Metal Fab in Vancouver, each arch rib is about 300 feet long and weighs 400 tons. They are so heavy that a naval architect will need to develop the plan for loading them in sections onto a barge, to ensure the barge remains stable.

According to Mike Pullen, communication officer with Multnomah County, the spans are set to travel the river sometime in November.

Southwest Macadam Avenue (Hwy. 43) continues to have weekday lane closures. The outside southbound lane is closed weekdays (except from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.) between Taylors Ferry Road and the edge of the project south of the bridge. The contractor is working on retaining walls.

A northbound lane is closed weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. north of the bridge during exca-

vation and ground anchor installation for the retaining walls.

"We appreciate commuters' patience during the recent closure (May 13-16) and the delays," Pullen said.

Crews are building forms and installing rebar for the pier cap while this summer pre-cast girders will be trucked in and set on columns between the abutment and at the river's edge.

Work will continue on the slope that will support the trolley and trail corridor north of the bridge. It is being reinforced.

The Portland Water Bureau is in the process of installing a new water line on Southwest Miles Place. The line is part of street improvements for a section of regional trail between Willamette Park and the bridge.

Northwest Natural (the gas company) is also doing work on Miles Place. Street construction is expected to begin in early June.

Normal weekday work hours are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Crews will work during the day on Saturdays for several weeks.

For more information, contact Mike Pullen at [mike.j.pullen@multco.us](mailto:mike.j.pullen@multco.us) and 503-209-4111 or visit [www.sellwoodbridge.org](http://www.sellwoodbridge.org).



Workers install girders on Bent 6 on the east side approach of the new Sellwood Bridge. (Photo courtesy of Mike Pullen, Multnomah County)



City of Portland staff members Joan Frederiksen and Denver Igarta along with Kay Durtschi, of Multnomah, discuss various options for the Southwest Corridor. (Post photo by Erik Vidstrand)

## Government officials receive input from community at Multnomah forum

### SOUTHWEST CORRIDOR PLAN

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Decisions about the Southwest Corridor Plan are coming to a head for residents and regional planners. Meeting after meeting has been going on since July and finalization of everyone's input is due in early June.

Executives and elected officials of the major agencies and organizations involved attended a community forum April 29 at the Multnomah Arts Center to listen to community input.

Maryanne Fitzgerald of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., Portland Mayor Charlie Hales, Neil McFarlane of TriMet, Portland Transportation Commissioner Steve Novick, Metro Councilor Bob Stacey, and Jason Tell of the Oregon Department of Transportation all participated.

Tell reported how ODOT is short on money due to declining revenue and unreliability.

"It's so bad," Tell warned, "that Congress has to act before September to keep the current budget intact. The feds used to pick up 90 percent of the bill in the old days."

"High capacity transit is not enough," Stacy said. "We're putting emphasis on safety and pedestrians and bikes."

Novick said he is biased and explained how he lost weight while living in the D.C. area because the transit was so good. So good, in fact, that he didn't need a car.

McFarlane, a frequent bus rider, shared that his role is to protect

the environment, have frequent service lines, and to continue investments.

"I want to preserve livability," McFarlane said. "Congestion can't support the area as the region grows."

Mayor Hales thanked everyone for their participation. He summarized his past roles in the Hayhurst neighborhood and his work on the MAX Red Line.

"In those days, the process moved very quickly," Hales said. "Then bam, we had a rail line to the airport."

"But we realized we needed to engage everyone for success," he continued. "This particular corridor has its own challenges and geology."

According to Malu Wilkinson, Metro Southwest Corridor Project Manager, the draft recommendations for Southwest Corridor design options have been submitted.

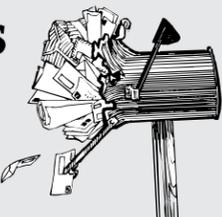
Recommendations were based on the following: capital cost magnitudes, such as tunnels; impacts to the natural environment, including trees, parks, and watersheds; development/redevelopment potential; property impacts; traffic/bike/pedestrian performance, and transit performance.

Final input from the public will be on June 9, which is the anticipated date for the Steering Committee recommendation on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement phase. Metro Council action on Steering Committee recommendations is expected June 26. For more information, visit [www.swcorridorplan.org](http://www.swcorridorplan.org).

Don't forget to renew your subscription. Form on Page 6.

The Southwest Portland Post  
4207 SE Woodstock Blvd #509  
Portland, OR 97206

# Letters to the Editor



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## Victim of teenage pranks urges random acts of kindness

Today, [May 26] while on my walk along Southwest Garden Home road, I was the victim of a random act of meanness by three teenage girls in a nice white car.

To be quite frank, they threw a wet sanitary napkin at me with a lewd picture on the top drawn in sharpie. This isn't the first time this has happened to me in this neighborhood.

Last year, two teenage girls threw unripe plums at me as I climbed the stairs to my apartment. There was no provocation; I'm just a normal woman in my 20s minding my own business.

It isn't so much what these girls did that bothers me; it's the fact that they did those things for fun. They actively set out to be mean to someone for laughs. That's cruel and hurtful.

When I was a high school student, I learned about the Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) organization ([www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org)).

Whether it's buying coffee for the person behind you in line or preparing a surprise dinner for your family, RAK seeks to promote kindness among all of us.

As a teenager, RAK inspired a lot of fun activities for me. I remember picking flowers in the dark with my best friend.

We tied up the blooms in little bouquets and did our best to sneak up to random houses at night and leave the flowers on the doorstep.

There was a bit of teenage daring involved, but it was positive and I remember it fondly to this day. I wonder what those mean girls will think about their behavior when they grow up?

Casey Davis  
Multnomah Village

## Transportation bureau should fix dangerous Capitol/40th intersection

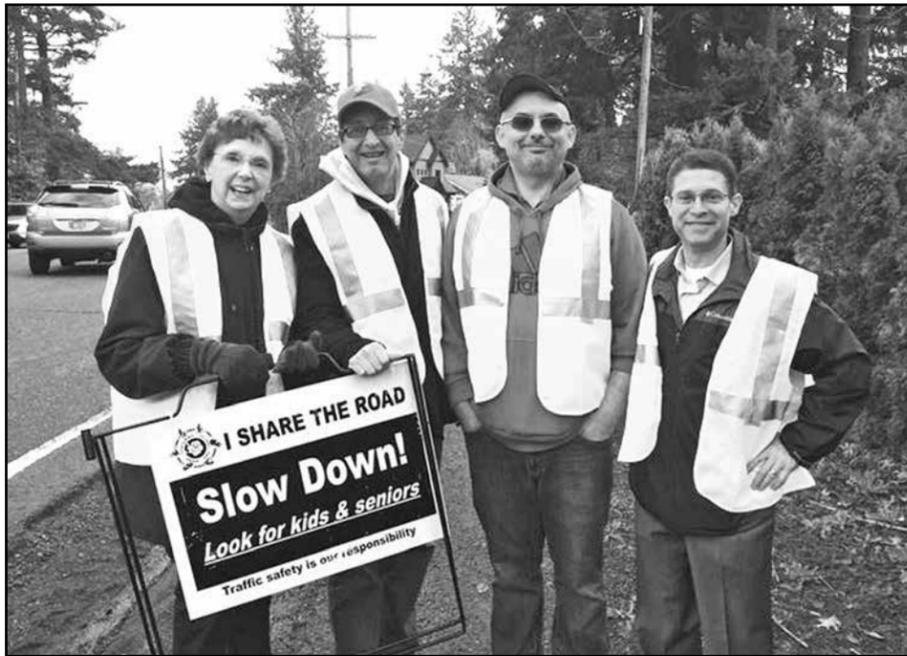
Multnomah Neighborhood Association has identified safety issues at several locations along Southwest Capitol Highway.

A safety vigil was held in March at Capitol Highway, near Miles Street and the West Hills Preschool and Learning Center. The most recent vigil target [in April] was Capitol Highway near the intersection at 40th Avenue.

"SLOW Down / Share the Road" signs were made available through the Portland Bureau of Transportation and 10 signs were strategically placed near this intersection.

Orange cones and bright safety vests helped to draw attention, while keeping the volunteers safe. The vigil volunteers placed and held signs to alert drivers heading off to work or school.

Capitol Highway safety concerns include speeding traffic in both directions and ignoring the stop sign at 40th Avenue. [Because of the unique Y configuration] a major traffic safety issue



Multnomah neighbors Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen, Moses Ross, James Nobles, and Greg Manning participate in a safety vigil in April at the intersection of Southwest Capitol Highway and 40th Avenue. (Photo courtesy of Patti-Waitman Ingebretsen)

occurs as vehicles attempt to navigate that dangerous intersection.

Multnomah neighborhood residents are actively pursuing Capitol Highway safety with the hope that the Portland Bureau of Transportation can resolve or decrease the identified safety issues.

The residents along Capitol Highway, as well as members of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association, are quietly hopeful that a solution can be found to address and resolve the identified safety concerns

Patti Waitman-Ingebretsen  
Multnomah Village

**Editor's Note:** Since this letter was written, progress has been made. A city engineer inspected the intersection of Capitol Highway and 40th Avenue and came up with an ingenious solution—with paint. By repainting the traffic stripes and fog lines the transportation bureau can inexpensively redirect traffic in both directions and prevent potentially disastrous automobile accidents from occurring.

My understanding is that this repainting project has been approved and will be completed soon.

— Don Snedecor

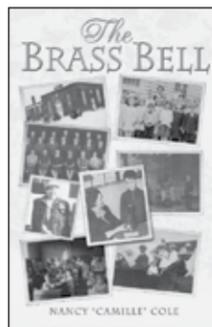


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## June 21st Workshop for Writers/Family Historians!



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PHOTO BY: RACHEL HADJASHAR

Find more here:  
<http://writeyourfamilyhistory.blogspot.com>  
Contact Camille: 503.914.9515



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# Everett proposes to build two new homes on Southwest 51st Avenue

## MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

By Lee Braymen-Cleary  
The Southwest Portland Post

At the May meeting of the Multnomah Neighborhood Association, neighbors

## Maplewood, Hayhurst rummage sales to benefit good causes

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Missed the recent spring clean-up event? Kids all grown up but you still have all their toys? Well, donate to one of two upcoming rummage sales.

The first one is coming right up on the weekend of June 6-7. Maplewood Coffee & Tea (5206 SW Custer St) will hold a benefit rummage sale with a portion of all proceeds going to Pear, an organization that creatively mentors homeless youth.

It's also the Maplewood café's two-year anniversary party. Music, drinks, food, and activities for all ages will take place from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

People are invited to either come and enjoy the fun, or if interested, sell items at the rummage sale. Sellers are responsible for setting up and cleaning up all personal items.

Ten percent of the sales at the end of the day will be collected and donated to the charity. Participants must be signed up by June 5 to reserve a space. For more

listened to proposals by Vic Remmers of Everett Custom Homes. Remmers himself grew up in the immediate area and claims to have sensitivity to local opinions.

Everett has recently constructed several homes in other Portland areas in addition to two homes it plans to build in Maplewood on Southwest 51st

information, please contact Liz Boyd at ejboyd378@hotmail.com.

Hayhurst Elementary School is having their first annual rummage sale on Saturday, June 21 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the school parking lot (5037 SW Iowa St). Organizers are accepting items now and offer to provide pick-up and storage.

It is the school's first effort to raise money for Dream Big Playground Project, as well as the school's neighborhood program.

Hayhurst has recently welcomed approximately 60 new students from Stephen's Creek Crossing and are expecting at least 30 more.

"We are trying to come up with fun new ways to raise money," exclaimed parent coordinator Courtney Kreutz. "Buy an early-bird ticket (8:00 a.m.) for just \$5.00. Beat the crowd."

To donate, arrange a pick-up, or buy an early-bird ticket, please contact Kreutz at courtneykreutz@gmail.com or Jamie at jamieclary@outlook.com.

All donations are tax deductible. For more information visit [www.hayhurst-dreambigproject.weebly.com](http://www.hayhurst-dreambigproject.weebly.com).

Avenue.

The proposed Everett dwellings will back Maplewood Elementary School property and will market for about \$500,000 and range in size of between 2,500 to 3,000 square feet.

Each will have four bedrooms and two and one-half bathrooms. These homes are proposed to sit close to the road and only a few feet from each other. Thus future residents cannot avoid looking into each others' windows.

One Maplewood neighbor suggested that since proposed backyard areas are about 143 feet deep, the builder could move one home farther back on the property.

Other residents thought this move was a good idea. Remmers said he would seriously consider this suggestion.

Neighbors registered concern about such things as the size of the homes. Nearby homes are small and the size of proposed homes deviates from the area's historic tendency for smaller homes.

Additionally, one couple showed con-

cern for what will happen to the path currently existing in their backyard. It leads students to Maplewood School.

Their question was "should a similar path be built?" Eliminating it could heighten these residents' privacy since countless parents dropping off their children by the path constantly disrupt their driveway by using it as a turnaround point.

**BOARD POSITIONS OPEN:** Claire Carder announced that several Maplewood Neighborhood Association board positions are open to local residents.

A chairperson, an outreach coordinator, a safety coordinator, and secretary are much needed. Any Maplewood residents interested in applying for any of these positions should contact Carder via email: [maplewood@swni.org](mailto:maplewood@swni.org).

**GARDEN TOUR:** The annual Maplewood garden tour occurs this year on Saturday, June 21 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This walking tour will involve 10 to 12 local gardens.

Anyone wanting to indulge in a scented and flowery trek should show

(Continued on Page 4)

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The Southwest Portland Post

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**OR99W: Newbury and Vermont Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project**

Construction started this month on the Newbury and Vermont Street Bridges on Barbur Boulevard, near the Hillsdale exit. The project is expected to take five months.

Traffic will be reduced to one lane in one direction on one bridge at a time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When a lane is closed on one bridge, the other bridge will have all lanes open.

On two weekends in June, all southbound lanes of Barbur Boulevard will be closed to work on the ends of the bridge. Check the website for specific dates to be announced in early June. Traffic will be detoured on to Terwilliger and Bertha Boulevards. For other traffic impacts and project information, visit the project website: [www.barburbridges.org](http://www.barburbridges.org)

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## Potholes and other miserable road maintenance issues, Part II

By Lee Braymen-Cleary  
The Southwest Portland Post

You may recall that in the April 2014 edition of *The Post* I wrote about Southwest Portland's potholes. These are holes you drive over, back into from your driveway or hit time and again as you motor to work.

These same potholes send you to the auto repair shop to keep you car on the road and thus reduce the possibility of a vacation and increase the possibility of a "staycation."

It turns out you may or may not qualify for Portland Bureau of Transportation services when you call them to fix your potholes.

As you might suspect, current budgetary constraints limit what the Bureau of Transportation can do according to Diane Dulken, media relations manager for transportation.

Undoubtedly, you have seen the city's signs. "POTHOLE HOTLINE 503-823 BUMP (823-2867), City of Portland."

Since I've seen the signs and the same miserable budgetary facts about the city's inability to meet all city-wide road maintenance needs, I have trusted in city transparency.

Hence, my original advice which was: If you live on an improved street with a pothole problem, give the city hotline a call or use an app they have devised for just that purpose.

Well, I told the truth as I knew it and nothing but. Nevertheless, one

Hillsdale resident, Larry Sloan—his own particular potholes filled—believes that those chasms crippling our streets can be repaired if they fall within areas annexed to Portland from Multnomah County.

Well, that's easy, I thought. I'll call the city contacts my editor gave me. The exact truth is just a few phone calls away.

But surprise! Perfectly nice transportation employees with decades of experience maintaining city roads were personable and knowledgeable about many things gravel, concrete and asphalt.

One employee even has a map of which city areas need treatment in the 2013-2014 biennium. It could be potholes, it could be repaving. Bravo to whatever is achieved! *You can see a similar, if not identical map by visiting [www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/451483](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/article/451483).*

Still these helpful folks could not tell me about annexation rules—who gets the helpful but down-and-dirty treatment, and who live with potholes and catastrophic street terrain?

Sloan's information continued to nag me and I kept digging. I did find a City of Portland Annexation History chart on the Web. Annexations began in 1851 and occurred at least until 1991.

Web Search "City of Portland Annexation History," and you can see for yourself. Still searching and getting antsy, I had a brainstorm. I phoned the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

(SWNI) office for some tips.

Alas, the folks at SWNI don't archive Southwest Portland annexation documents, but Leonard Gard, a longtime land use and transportation specialist, passed along something that he is reasonably sure explains the ages-long confusion.

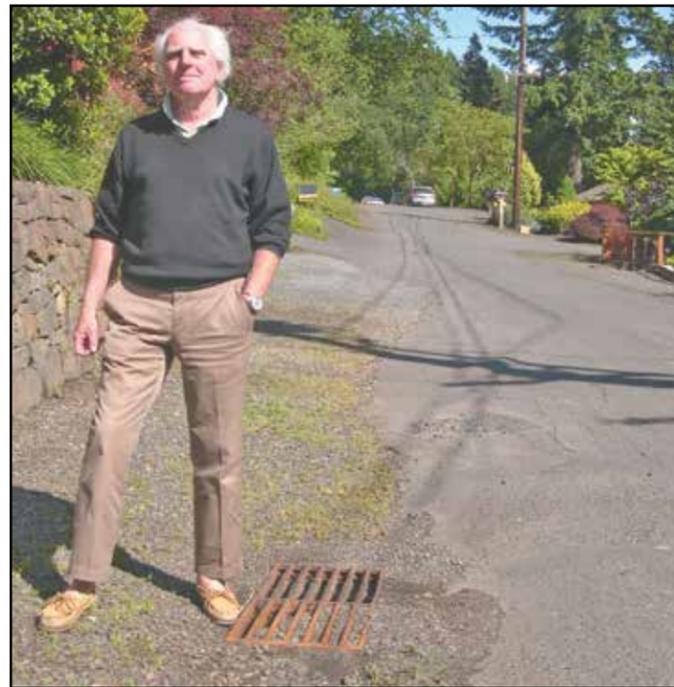
Some Portland/Multnomah County annexations mention road maintenance and some don't!

So can I clear the air over this annoying issue?

Not yet. But Dulken did phone me with the address of Portland's archival site as the city doesn't have time to research it themselves.

It is situated on the Portland State University campus. I'll wend my way there next week. I hope to shed light on it in our July edition.

I also hope to unearth the very latest on one of the city's latest ideas: taxing residents to build the coffers for ongoing street maintenance.



Larry Sloan stands near a storm drain on unimproved Southwest Chesapeake Avenue not far from his home. Sloan said that over the years the city of Portland has done numerous repair and regrading projects, in this case to redirect stormwater. (Post photo by Don Snedecor)

### MAPLEWOOD NOTEBOOK

(Continued from Page 3)

up that day at Maplewood Coffee & Tea (5206 SW Custer St) after 9:30 a.m. to buy \$10 tickets, maps and self-guides.

Included in the price will be discussions on native plants and other garden issues. An eco-garden talk is scheduled for 12 noon at one of the gardens. Ticket sales contribute to the association's general fund.

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## Gaddis' dream at April Hill Park is getting closer to reality

By Lee Braymen-Cleary  
The Southwest Portland Post

In 2007, Maplewood resident, Jill Gaddis and some nearby residents had a wild thought: They should transform yet preserve half—the very wild half—of Southwest Portland's April Hill Park.

Nestled quietly, nearly secretly, between homes of all ages and styles, the park at Southwest 59th Avenue and Miles Court covers 9.5 acres.

A current scan of the developed half reveals a well-used soccer field. Additionally there are childrens' play areas and play equipment sprawled out among walking and biking trails, and ever-appealing grassy and soft-rolling hills.

But that wild half, comprised of casual, man-made and often muddy dirt trails meandering through cedars, maples, Douglas firs and other trees and shrubs houses a symphony of birds.

So does its wetland area, fed by Woods Creek, a Fanno Creek tributary, as it rises and falls with the seasons. Additionally, an array of small reptiles considers that moist area home.

The dream of Gaddis and her friends was to provide a boardwalk, two bridges and an observation deck, all of which protect what she calls a natural "nursery" of fragile land, while at the same time ensuring more safety and convenience for its human and canine visitors of all ages.

The addition of a connected observation deck in the marsh area would again protect the four-footed wildlife and

surrounding foliage as well facilitate wildlife study for students of the neighboring Maplewood Elementary School.

At the time, it seemed natural to Gaddis with her expertise in native plants to give up her chairmanship of the Maplewood Neighborhood Association and devote her efforts completely to the park dream.

She knew beginning such a large project was like riding a train chugging non-stop from Portland to New York; there was no getting off.

Friends of April Hill Park was soon formed and manned by a bevy of volunteers including Anne-Marie Fischer, Bill Rector, Laurie DeVos, Jean Seaman, Jeanne Donaldson, and Karen Williams.

"Friends" is an amalgamation of the Southwest Watershed Resource Center, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. and the Maplewood Neighborhood Association.

Gaddis is quick to note that it was extremely fortunate that Sylvia Bogart and Sharon Keats of Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. donated a great deal of time outside of office hours.

Jean Seaman of the Southwest Portland Water Center and Virginia Bowers of the Columbia Land Trust donated their professional skills—many grant writing hours—raising \$83,059 of the \$250,000 Metro project.

Seaman's and Bowers' *pro bono* work, along with that of architects Brad Nile of Andersen Construction and Joanne Hogarth, a Marylhurst University faculty member, added up to \$134,000. Roughly and luckily, only \$33,000 was

left for Gaddis and "Friends" to raise.

And they have reached their goal! Three hands-on, fundraising endeavors organized and overseen by a host of volunteers did the trick.

The September "Arf in the Park" event for dog owners—complete with bandannas for the dogs—and October's silent auction held at Maplewood Coffee & Tea both received significant donations.

The third effort, Indiegogo, an online crowd funding medium for an assortment of nonprofits has also been successful.

"Business people in addition to marvelous volunteers supported us," said Gaddis. "There have been at least 30 of them. They include those from Starbucks, Alotto Gelato, Lamb's Thriftway, Western Pets, Maplewood Coffee & Tea, Paloma Clothing, Thinker Toys, and Annie Bloom's Books along with many others. Some of those private sector members even contributed twice."

While this community success story envisioned by Gaddis and friends won't undergo construction until summer 2015, educational activities centering on its architecture are already underway at Maplewood Elementary School.

Architects Nile and Hogarth are teaching third graders about architecture by focusing on April Hill Park's future boardwalk. Gaddis hopes to get a peek at the children's bridge models soon.

With initial goals met, there are still opportunities to give to this all-natural project. The enhanced site will still need new signage as well as a bench for the



Jill Gaddis gave up her leadership of the Maplewood Neighborhood Association to focus on April Hill Park. (Post photo by Lee Braymen-Cleary)

observation deck.

If you are interested in giving, please visit April Hill Park's website and watch a video about the park's habitat at [www.swni.org](http://www.swni.org). You will find a "donate" button. There you can also see the camera-shy Gaddis as well as commentators Seaman and Bowers.

To make a tax-deductible donation by mail, write a check to Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc., (SWNI) 7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, Oregon, 97219. Be sure to write "April Hill Park" in the lower left corner. To contact Friends of April Hill Park email: [AprilHillPark@gmail.com](mailto:AprilHillPark@gmail.com). Or call the SWNI office at 503-823-4592.



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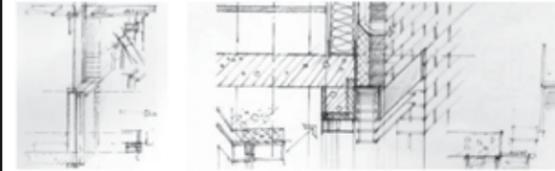
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# Thieves steal trees and shrubs from gardens in Multnomah Village

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

There have been some recent thefts of trees and shrubbery along SW Capitol Hwy. in the Multnomah Village area.

Portland Police Officer Dan Spiegel reported that there was a theft of a tree at a home on the 7400 block of Southwest Capitol Highway.

This occurred during the night of May 17 or early the morning of May 18. An apple tree was removed from the back of the home. The tree was not recently planted.

While taking the report, Spiegel learned that some shrubbery was also stolen from the front of a couple of other homes in the area.

Four bamboo trees that had recently been planted were also stolen from the side of an office building located at 7600 SW Capitol Hwy. during the weekend of May 10-11.

If you hear that someone was the victim of this kind of theft, please encourage them to report it. They can call the non-emergency number to the police at 503-823-3333 or they can report it online at [www.portlandoregon.gov/police/cor](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/police/cor).

"It's important to report all incidents of crime," Stefanie Adams, crime prevention coordinator for Southwest Portland said, "That way we'll have statistics which reflect trends in crime and the police officers are made aware of

problems in the neighborhood."

Adams offered some additional prevention tips.

Call the police when you observe suspicious activity in your neighborhood. If what you see appears to be an immediate threat to life or property or a crime in progress, call 9-1-1.

If not, call the non-emergency number to the police at (503) 823-3333.

"When in doubt start with 9-1-1," Officer Spiegel stressed. "The more you know about your neighbors and the routines of the neighborhood, including businesses, the more readily you will be able to identify suspicious behavior."

Make sure that there is adequate

and even lighting around your property. If neighbors or passerby cannot observe activity occurring on your property, they will not be able to get involved and call the police if there are problems.

Motion detector lighting is an effective option; many systems allow you to set the distance of activation, which can be set to edge of your property.

Some people may be motivated to take further steps to prevent theft of vegetation. There is a website that provides some ideas: [www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com](http://www.thecrimepreventionwebsite.com).

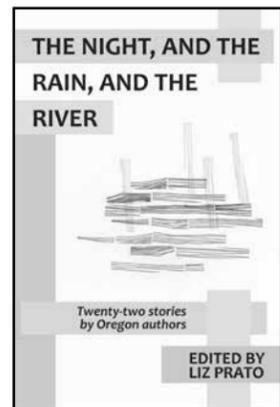
For more information on crime prevention, please check out the city's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/portlandcrimeprevention](http://www.facebook.com/portlandcrimeprevention).

## Oregon short story writers coming to Multnomah Village for reading

By Lee Braymen-Cleary  
The Southwest Portland Post

If you support Oregon writers—not to mention local small presses—mark your calendars for Thursday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. Annie Bloom's Books (7834 SW Capitol Hwy) in Multnomah Village will host four such writers who read from their works.

Readers will include Jan Baross of Southwest Portland, Gail Gartley of Bend, Steve Denniston of Southeast Portland, and Jackie Shannon Hollis of Aloha.



Each writer is affiliated with the new small press, Forest Avenue Press. Their work will appear in the Hillsdale press's anthology *The Night, and the*

*Rain, and the River*, a collection of 22 short stories edited by Multnomah Village resident Liz Prato, and, of course, written by Oregonians.

Forest Avenue Press offers this collection in part because it acquired a 2014 Oregon Literary Fellowship. Not a bad accomplishment for a young organization striving to make its mark among larger and more established presses.

Laura Stanfill, press founder and Southwest Portland resident, is justifiably proud of her two year-old establishment. "We've seen amazing reviews, blurbs, and newspaper coverage for our work, including recently being included in the May cover story by *Portland Monthly*, "100 Reasons to Love Portland."

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**The Portland Water Bureau is flushing the water mains in SW Portland neighborhoods this summer.**

Drinking water systems, especially unfiltered systems like Portland, need to routinely clean the network of pipes to improve water quality. The Portland Water Bureau uses Unidirectional Flushing (UDF) to scour and clean the insides of the pipes.

**What you can expect to see:**

- **UDF works** by forcing water in the pipes to flow at much higher speeds than normal. Flushing crews first open and close valves to isolate sections of pipe, and then the water and any sediments in the pipes are flushed out through an open fire hydrant. You may see lots of water gushing from an open hydrant.
- **During flushing**, residents in the immediate vicinity of flushing may notice temporarily discolored water and lower than normal water pressure. The discoloration does not pose a health risk. However, avoid using tap water or running the washing machine or dishwasher until your water runs clear. After flushing, if you still experience discolored water, turn on each cold water faucet in your house and allow them to run for several minutes or until the water is clear.

**Flushing usually occurs 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday – Friday.**

Call the Portland Water Bureau Water Line from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at **503-823-7525** with any questions or to report ongoing water quality problems. For more information, updates, and maps, visit: [www.portlandoregon.gov/water/udf](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/water/udf).

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Through the interactive Map App, you can view proposed land use changes, read more about the project, add your name to the mailing list and give feedback. You'll also see where and how development will be guided over time, and what's proposed in your neighborhood.

**Share feedback with the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) starting July 21.**

Informational open houses in July and early September will help Portlanders understand the proposal and prepare testimony. After considering public testimony, the PSC will forward a Recommended Plan to City Council in early 2015.

Visit [www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/pdxcompplan](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/pdxcompplan) or call 503-823-7700.

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is committed to providing equal access to information and hearings. If you need special accommodation, please call 503-823-7700, the City's TTY at 503-823-6868, or by the Oregon Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900

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# Wilson High School principal outlines future for students

By Erik Vidstrand  
The Southwest Portland Post

Beginning in September, Wilson High School will undergo a fresh coat of ideas, changes, and courses. Besides the required credits needed for graduation, there will be an assortment of classes normally offered at a community center.

According to Principal Brian Chatard, for the first time in 12 years, the school budget was not cut. Instead, he has been busy hiring.

Chatard gave his "State of the School" report to the Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. Schools Committee on May 15. Chatard was asked to speak on the changes, challenges, and the future of Southwest schools.

"There is a lot of interest in Portland Public Schools right now," Chatard said. "Class sizes are lower. Amazing candidates have applied, and due to many retirements, fresh, new teachers will be in the building this coming fall. I have 15 openings."

Chatard replaced long-time Principal Sue Brent who retired in June 2012. Chatard was a vice-principal at Grant High School and began his stint at Wilson the following September. While at Grant, he partnered with the Hollywood Theatre in documentary film and film as language classes.

According to Chatard, not all students excel at the three Rs (reading, writing, and 'rithmetic). "Instead, one student may thrive in the arts, others in technology, and some in the core areas. We have to offer diverse topics that will be market-

able in the 21st Century."

Take physical education and health. According to Chatard, a third of the students excel, a third does okay, and the rest hide. It's his goal that students become more physically active beyond the minimal P.E. requirements.

P.E. curriculum will eventually include lifestyle activities such as rock climbing, hiking, physical fitness, and ultimate Frisbee, not just team soccer or basketball.

"My wish is to encourage everyone to be fit and healthy," stressed Chatard. "There are over 850 student athletes here at Wilson but we need to compete with 24 Hour Fitness."

Wilson received a sizeable grant to convert two classrooms into a fitness, yoga, and mindfulness center. Educators emphasize that students who practice yoga remain healthier spiritually, physically and emotionally.

For this reason Wilson has partnered with One House of Peace (Zen meditation and awareness). An Oregon Health and Science University research study will follow 90 students regarding the impact of yoga, nutrition and healthy eating.

Chatard also has to face the common core standards which are directed from Salem. With more than 1230 students enrolled at Wilson, the state is concerned about all students passing.

After four years of high school, the state accounts for students in one of eight categories: regular diploma, adult diploma, modified diploma, extended diploma, alternative certificate, GED, continued enrollment or dropout.

Wilson's graduation rate is 84.4 percent. "Assessment is a hot button,"

Chatard went on. "It's not written in a user-friendly way. The tests are the most controversial and the state is not helping"

An astounding 40-60 percent of students are not expected to pass the exams. Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills involves a lot of writing and interacting on computer.

If a student does not pass OAKS, teachers and staff need to remediate in order for students to pass. It begins in May 2015. "What do you do with kids that don't ever pass?" one of the committee members asked.

"The Oregon Education Association is calling for a moratorium until this is properly vetted," answered Chatard. "Private schools are not held accountable to the assessments."

"Who benefits?" someone else asked. "The corporate test makers," replied Chatard.

Beyond faculty, resources for schools are on the back burner especially on the west side. The budget for basics like books, furniture, and computers hasn't been raised in over 10 years.



Principal Brian Chatard

"At \$72 a student, it doesn't amount to much," Chatard said. "There has been a lot of fundraising by parents but advocacy is needed here in Southwest Portland. Workstations need to be replaced, students need new computers. My furniture is from the early '70s!"

A ground breaking event for the new Wilson turf field will be held on Thursday, June 5, at 5:00 p.m. It will be the last event on the old field and there will be a spring football intra-squad scrimmage.

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